



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

August, 2010

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to chapter President Mark Armstrong, Robin Barrow and the rest of the folks of the Knoxville chapter for hosting our Spring Meeting. It was a great success. I received many favorable comments from attendees in recognition of the work involved. I also sent the Director of the Knoxville Zoo a letter expressing TOS's gratitude for allowing us the use of their facilities during the weekend. Please see the recap of the actions taken at the Board of Director's meeting on page 3.

Congratulations to Chris Welsh (Knoxville) and Melinda Welton (Nashville) on receiving our Society's Distinguished Service Award. Of Chris' many contributions to TOS, none has been more important or more appreciated, than his ten years of service as Editor of *The Migrant*. Melinda's yeoman work as Chair of our Conservation Policy Committee and years of field work and research on behalf of the imperiled Cerulean Warbler earned her the award. Well done!

TOS is fortunate that Dr. David Aborn (Chattanooga) has taken on the responsibilities as Editor of *The Migrant*. David is looking forward to the challenge of maintaining and improving our Society's legacy publication. However, the job of an editor becomes a whole lot easier if he has something to edit! Please consider submitting an appropriate article for publication. David welcomes comments and suggestions and will be happy to offer advice to authors.

A bit of good news on the conservation front: the recently passed state budget has restored the Real Estate Transfer Fund (RETF) to its original purpose. This is a prime example of how your phone calls and e-mails can and do make a difference. Thanks to all of you who made one. Please see the Conservation Policy Committee report on page 6 for more details.

The Highland Rim chapter has graciously agreed to host our Fall Meeting. Please see chapter President Lisa Trail's invitation on page 2. For those of you who like to plan ahead, the 2011 Spring Meeting will be in Memphis, April 29, 30 and May 1.

I encourage chapter officers and directors to visit our website periodically. Please make note of any omissions or needed corrections and send them to Curator and webmaster, Chuck Nicholson (Knoxville). Especially critical is chapter contact information. Also, please remember to send corrections and additions to your chapter's membership rolls to Treasurer Mac McWhirter (Memphis).

As always, your comments and suggestions are appreciated.

Dick Preston dickpreston@bigriver.net

2010 Fall Meeting and Symposium at Manchester

October 1 - 3, 2010

The Tennessee Ornithological Society's 2010 fall meeting and symposium will be held in Manchester, Tennessee October 1-3. The Highland Rim Chapter will host the meeting and extends a cordial invitation to all TOS members. Events include the annual symposium, a board of directors meeting, and field trips.

The Ambassador Inn & Luxury Suites at 925 Interstate Drive (I-24 Exit 110) will be the headquarters for the event. For reservations, call 931-728-2200 or 800-237-9228. A block of rooms are being held for TOS and the special room rate is \$45.00 plus tax. There is a breakfast provided by the Ambassador.

Directions

The Ambassador Inn is reached by taking Interstate 24 to Exit 110 (Route 53 - Manchester and Woodbury). After exiting, go north to Interstate Drive; the Ambassador sign will be visible on the right. The Inn is within walking distance of Cracker Barrel, Oak Restaurant, and quick market/service stations. A Waffle House and a Mexican restaurant are also nearby.

Annual Symposium

The symposium will feature invited and submitted talks about the birds of Tennessee. A formal call for papers will be issued soon. Meanwhile, if you are interested in making a presentation, please contact Dick Preston dickpreston@bigriver.net

Field Trips

Field trips will be held Saturday and Sunday morning and depart from the Ambassador Inn. Details of the field trips will be posted on the TOS website.

Board of Directors Meeting

The TOS Board of Directors meets Saturday afternoon.

Registration

The registration fee is \$10.00. Pre-payment is encouraged although attendees may pay upon arrival. Registration will be from 5:00 until 9:00 PM on Friday, October 1, at the Ambassador Inn Conference Building. Send a check made out to Highland Rim Chapter TOS to:

Vida Sherwood, Highland Rim TOS Treasurer
1326 Harton Blvd.
Tullahoma, TN 37388

For additional information on the meeting contact Ruth Luckado, 937 McKellar Dr., Tullahoma, TN 37388, (931) 455-4004, luck@cafes.net

2010 Board of Directors Meeting

At the Spring Meeting in Knoxville on May 1st, the Board of Directors:

- (1) Elected Dr. David Aborn (Chattanooga chapter) as the Editor of *The Migrant*. David replaces Chris Welsh (Knoxville chapter), who served TOS as Editor of *The Migrant* for ten years!
- (2) Awarded the 2015 Spring Meeting to the Nashville chapter. 2015 will mark the 100th anniversary of TOS, which was founded in Nashville.
- (3) Agreed to sponsor two miles of Operation Migration, for \$400. Please see Vice President (east) Tony King's (Knoxville chapter) report on Operation Migration.
- (4) Upon the recommendation of Treasurer Mac McWhirter (Memphis chapter) and the Finance Committee, agreed to extend our current Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy. This provides coverage for both state and chapter directors and officers.
- (5) Agreed to donate \$200 to the Knoxville Zoo for allowing us to use their facilities for our meeting and for the outstanding support we received from zoo staff during the weekend.
- (6) Accepted the generous offer from the Highland Rim chapter to host our Fall Meeting in October. Please see Lisa Trail's (Highland Rim) announcement.

Secretary Laura McCall (Highland Rim chapter) will soon have the complete minutes posted on our website for review.

Dick Preston

Spring Count Data Due

If you have not submitted your Spring Count data to your county/local compiler, please do so as soon as you can so I can get the data to our *Migrant* editor in a timely fashion. Please remember to include your effort data, weather data, start and end times for the count, number of birding parties on count day, and anything else relevant to your count that might be of interest to readers. If you have no local compiler, please send the data to me directly either by e-mail or regular mail.

Thanks as always for your participation to help record Tennessee's bird life for future comparisons. Your effort is greatly appreciated.

Ron Hoff
Tennessee Bird Count Compiler
Tennessee Ornithological Society
282 Hackworth Lane
Clinton, TN 37716
865-435-4547
aves7000@bellsouth.net

**Tennessee Ornithological Society
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009**

Revenues

Dues & Membership Fees	
Institutional Memberships	705.00
Individual Memberships	10,983.00
Total Dues & Membership Fees	11,688.00
Contributions	350.00
Royalty Income	-
Total Contributions	350.00
Sale of Collateral Materials & Migrant C.D.'s	87.00
Investment Income and Realized/Unrealized Gains/Losses	23,452.23
Total Revenues	35,577.23

Expenses

Grants & Donations	
Conservation & Research Grant Awards	2,500.00
Operation Migration	200.00
Tennessee Parks and Greenways - G Myers Fund	250.00
American Bird Conservancy	100.00
Optics for the Tropics	450.00
Total Grants & Donations	3,500.00
General Expenses	437.65
Insurance	957.50
Publication Expenses	
The Migrant	
Printing & Mailing Costs	1,400.00
Layout Costs	1,000.00
Back Issues	30.60
Total for The Migrant	2,430.60
The Tennessee Warbler	
Printing Costs	2,249.85
Mailing Expenses	558.35
Total for The Tennessee Warbler	2,808.20
TOS Web Site	274.40
Total Publication Expenses	5,513.20
Total Expenses	10,408.35
Excess Revenue over Expenses	25,168.88

**Tennessee Ornithological Society
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2009**

Assets**Current Assets**

Cash in Checking	5,693.58
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Investments

Vanguard Mutual Funds	217,587.19
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Prepaid Expenses	957.50
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Total Assets	224,238.27
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Liabilities and Equity**Liabilities**

Migrant Issues to be Printed - 2008 and 2009	11,180.00
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Unearned Income	538.00
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2008 Grants / Awards Payable	1,980.00
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	13,698.00
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Equity

General Reserve	119,046.30
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Life Membership Reserve	84,950.00
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Conservation and Research Restricted Fund	6,543.97
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Total Equity	210,540.27
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Total Liabilities and Equity	224,238.27
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2010/11 Duck Stamp

The 2010/11 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) is now available. Arguably the most effective and certainly the most efficient conservation program of the federal government, the Duck Stamp is a bargain at just \$15. A full 98% of the purchase price goes to the acquisition of wetland and grassland habitat, which is then placed into our National Wildlife Refuge System, affording permanent protection.

As an organization, TOS has committed to helping boost sales of the stamp. Last year, TOS members purchased 43 stamps and our goal for this year is 50. This year's stamp features the American Widgeon. I'll have the stamps at the Fall Meeting in Manchester. Not able to come to Manchester? I'd be happy to mail you a stamp. Just e-mail me (dickpreston@bigriver.net) with your address. Displaying your stamp by attaching it to your binoculars, field guide or backpack is an excellent way to help promote the stamp.

Dick Preston

TOS – CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Current CPC Members: Melinda Welton and Gregg Elliott, Co-chairs
Bob Hatcher, Dick Preston, Chuck Nicholson, and Kevin Calhoon.

February - June

VICTORY: Reinstating the TN Real Estate Transfer Fund

Since February when Governor Bredesen presented his 2010 budget and recommended full restoration of the TN Real Estate Transfer Fund, TOS has written letters and encouraged members to call key legislators, urging them to keep this funding in the final version of the budget. We are pleased to report that our efforts were successful! This is the fund that allows us to purchase land across the state and to leverage thousands of federal dollars in the process. If you haven't already – please take a minute and thank your legislators. You can find their numbers at www.legislature.state.tn.us Special recognition goes to Senators Jim Kyle and Mark Norris from West Tennessee. Without their leadership, this effort likely wouldn't have gotten out of committee. This effort was a real nail-biter and the fund was almost lost several times during the process. The Forever Green Tennessee campaign, mounted by Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, and all the calls and letters that the conservation community sent were vital. It REALLY WAS the volume of calls that made the difference!

March

International Migratory Bird Day

TOS signed onto a letter asking President Obama to proclaim May 8, 2010, as International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), a day that celebrates the spectacle of bird migration. While IMBD has been celebrated since 1993, no president to date has been asked to recognize this important event or independently proclaim it.

Scenic Vistas Protection Act

TOS sent letters to all members of the Tennessee State Science Committee in support of the Scenic Vistas Protection Act that would prevent mountain-top mining in Tennessee above 2,000' elevation. This essentially would eliminate mining in the breeding range of the Cerulean Warbler in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. For a second year in a row, this bill failed to make it out of committee.

April

Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act of 2010

TOS sent letters to all members of Tennessee's Congressional delegation asking them to become co-sponsors of a bill that would require that all new federal building construction or renovation "incorporate, to the maximum extent possible, bird-safe building materials and design features." Currently, the only Tennessee Representative who has become a co-sponsor for this bill is Marsha Blackburn. A thank-you letter to Representative Blackburn is being prepared.

April

Habitat Conservation Plan

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is engaged in the writing of a Habitat Conservation Plan that could include specific provisions for the conservation of the Cerulean Warbler in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. There are some potentially conflicting land uses in this area that could jeopardize the value of the region for Cerulean Warblers. TWRA has management control over more Cerulean Warbler habitat than any other single entity in the global range of this species. TOS sent a letter to the Director, Ed Carter, expressing our desire that the HCP contain provisions that will promote sustaining the Cerulean Warbler at its current habitat and population levels.

Continued from page 6

June

Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010

In 2009 TOS sent a letter to Senator Alexander endorsing the additional 12,229 acres as Wilderness in the Southern District of the Cherokee National Forest. These are acres that were also recommended by the U.S. Forest Service. On June 10th, Senator Alexander introduced this legislation; Senator Corker is a co-sponsor. TOS sent letters to both Senators thanking them for their actions.

Forest Service Old Growth Protection Letter

TOS signed on to a letter circulated by the Bird Conservation Alliance which will be addressed to the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. The letter thanks the administration for recent management changes moving away from old growth logging on the Tongass National Forest, but also calls for increased protection of old growth and roadless areas in Pacific Northwest national forests, especially from mandates to promote forest-based biofuels.

OPERATION MIGRATION 2010

How many Whooping Crane chicks will there be in the Eastern Migration class of 2010-2011? That is the question, in mid-June 2010, on the minds of the handlers responsible for hand-raising this year's class. Ideally twenty-four chicks are needed. However, last year the largest class in nine years had twenty chicks that successfully completed the ultra-light led migration, starting in mid-October from Wisconsin to Florida.

The chicks, now about five months old, are escorted by a sixteen-member team, four ultra-light aircraft, top cover plane, plus trucks to pull campers, motor homes and equipment carrying vehicles. Moving this "circus" costs money. Operation Migration requests donations to defray costs. Last year, at \$ 200.00 per mile, Craniacs funded the entire 1,258 miles through their generosity.

I urge each ornithological club in Tennessee to become Milemakers . Go on-line and read the Field Journal entries for the latest in high adventure. Subscribe by contacting http://www.operationmigration.org/mile_makers.htm or by calling 1-800-675-2618. Choose your mile and dedicate your gift to your favorite crane or person!

Enjoy the migration of 2010-2011. Become a Craniac!

Tony King. KTOS. Certified Craniac!

Donations

Virginia and Tom Reynolds have sent a donation in memory of Carolyn Bullock to the Migrant Endowment Fund.

TOS has recently received a gift from the donor advised-fund of Jennifer and Jay Mills through the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga.

Susan Hollyday, Treasurer

CHAPTER NEWS

Nashville -continued from page 8

The Nashville Spring Count was held on May 8 with 143 species totaled. Some areas were not able to be covered due to the devastating flooding that occurred here the previous weekend. Transient migrant numbers were down, as they had been all spring. And the flooding took its toll on nesting birds, especially Cliff Swallows and ground nesters. But there were some highlights such as a late Ring-necked Duck at Shelby Park, 2 Bald Eagles and 2 chicks, several shorebird species thanks to flooded sod farms, the Percy Priest area, and the Gallatin Steam Plant, 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 1 Willow Flycatcher at Shelby Bottoms, 3 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and 3 Bewick's Wrens in Rutherford Co., 12 Bank Swallows, Vesper, Henslow's and Lincoln's sparrows at Bells Bend, and 1 Lark Sparrow, 6 Grasshopper Sparrows, and 2 Dickcissels on the Percy Priest route. Both tanagers and Orchard Orioles were found in large numbers.

NTOS members enjoyed excellent spring field trips to Shelby Bottoms, Bells Bend Park and Beaman Park. We had great looks at Henslow's Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Willow Flycatcher, Prairie Warblers and Chats at Bells Bend, and Worm-eating Warblers, Ovenbirds, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Kentucky Warblers, Wood Thrushes, and Scarlet Tanagers at Beaman.

Jan Shaw

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Members of the **LEE AND LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER** of Tennessee Ornithological Society conducted the 67th consecutive Elizabethton Spring Count on Saturday, April 24. The coverage area consisted of Carter County and parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties.

The weather turned out much better than the forecast, with cloudy to partly cloudy skies most of the day before steady rain arrived late in the afternoon. A total of 36 observers in seven parties found 139 species. This species total is below the average of 146 recorded over the last 30 years, probably due to the combination of the count's early date and delayed migration this spring. According to Rick Knight, the

compiler for the annual count, few flycatchers, thrushes and transient warblers were represented in the total.

Knight provided some other interesting notes on this year's count. Bufflehead was missed for just the second time in the last 15 years. Usually a few of these small ducks linger on Wilbur Lake. No Loggerhead Shrikes or Yellow-breasted Chats were found. Northern Bobwhite was represented by only a single individual. Bobwhite has been found at an average rate of 3.9 over the last 20 years, compared to an average of 21.4 for the 20 years prior to that.

This year's count yielded the highest counts ever for Double-crested Cormorant (154), Red-tailed Hawk (28), Blue Jay (737) and Brown Creeper (7). All the creepers were found in stands of beetle-killed pines on Unaka Mountain in Unicoi County.

The counters found 10 species of raptors, including four Bald Eagles, a Northern Harrier and a Peregrine Falcon, as well as seven species of shorebirds.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (4) was found for the fourth straight year at two sites, one located in Carter County and the other in Washington County.

Only two species of flycatchers (Eastern Phoebe and Eastern Kingbird) were found.

Carolina Wrens were scarce in the mountains, likely due to cold and a heavy winter snowpack. The count produced only 21 species of warblers, with few transient species. Counters did find one Golden-winged Warbler and three Swainson's Warblers.

The count did tally 11 species of sparrows, but no Blue Grosbeaks and only five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

A total of 40 Bobolinks was the highest number for this species since 1966.

The chapter also held its annual Summer Bird Count on Saturday, June 12. The count has been held for the past 17 years with the exceptions of 1997 and

CHAPTER NEWS

Lee and Lois Herndon - continued from page 9

2002. On average, a total of 112 species have been found on this count, which takes in all of Carter County.

Compiler Rick Knight said the count was started in 1992 to provide a snapshot of local birdlife during the most important season for birds. The summer months are when most birds are busy nesting and rearing young.

A total of 22 observers in five parties reported 110 species for this year's count. The total is slightly below the average of 112 species per count, which has ranged as low as 105 species to as high as 118 species. Over the 17-year span of this count a combined total of 140 species has been found. Knight said overall numbers were a bit low this year, perhaps partly due to weather on count day. He noted that the cold and heavy snow of this past winter apparently affected some permanent residents, such as Carolina Wren, which showed some scarcity on the Spring Bird Count as well.

According to Knight, some notable misses this year included Wild Turkey, Black Vulture, Great Horned Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher and Kentucky Warbler.

There was a good count for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. A total of 18 of these herons, four adults and 14 nestlings in four different nests, were found near the Watauga River in Elizabethton.

The count found 19 species of warblers. No birds were particularly common, but those with the highest numbers included European Starling (423), American Robin (286), American Crow (189) and Indigo Bunting (185).

Officers for the chapter are Roy Knispel, president; Kathy Noblet, vice president; Mary Anna Wheat, secretary; and Darla Anderson, treasurer. The chapter's long-time treasurer, Gil Derouen, has stepped down from the position after many years of dedicated and hard work.

Bryan Stevens

In Memoriam

Chattanooga

Richard Elliot "Dick" Schier
May 8, 1949-April 21, 2010

We sadly must announce the untimely passing of Dick Schier, an active member of the TOS, Chattanooga Chapter, and tireless supporter of birding.

A graduate of the McCallie School and Georgia Tech, he retired from UNUM Provident in 2001 after a twenty-nine year career. Considered a master genealogist and an accomplished guitarist, Dick found his true passion in retirement...birding with his camera. A life bird for Dick was a bird of which he had a picture. His life list was in excess of 350 pictures.

Ever generous and educating, Dick always looked forward to sharing his pictures with others. His regular e-mail photo/narratives were distributed to a list of nearly one hundred recipients. He also promoted birding with formal presentations to local service clubs and church groups.

We miss you Dick... Carpe Avem!

John W Kuehnelt

Nashville

Anne R. Nichols passed away June 7, 2010. Anne was a member of the Nashville Chapter of TOS for decades before moving back to North Carolina. She was a feeder participant on the spring and fall counts, and on occasion hosted the club at her home on Franklin Road. She maintained a woodland garden that she shared with the bird club. She was a most gracious and wonderful person.

Nashville resident and birder, Bob O'Dear, died on April 7, 2010. Bob was a pioneer among North American listers. In the late 1970's he initiated the "Bob-O-Link" that made information on rare bird sightings across North America accessible to anyone willing to pay a small fee. This was a quantum leap from the "telephone trees" which had formerly been the only access to such reports and were generally local in nature. Bob was also the founder of Observ Bird Tours and led tours in North, Central and South America.

In Memoriam

Memphis

Carolyn Dagmar Hodges Bullock, 77 passed away Wednesday, June 16, 2010, at Methodist University Hospital. She was preceded in death by her husband, William O. Bullock, Sr.

Carolyn was a long-time member and served as a local and state officer of Tennessee Ornithological Society and was a respected authority on birds in the Mid South. She was instrumental in the restoration of the Bald Eagle population at Reelfoot Lake and traveled extensively throughout the Americas on birding trips. She worked as a Field Representative for the US Census Bureau for many years and tutored through the Memphis Literacy Council until weeks before her death. She believed strongly in the election process and served for decades as a local polling official. She had a deep and abiding love and respect for nature her entire life, and passed this on to her friends and family. She lived her most recent years at the Parkview in midtown Memphis, participating in activities with her many friends.

Bill Bullock

Sadly, I have to report the passing of Carolyn Bullock on June 16th, 2010. Carolyn was a member of the Memphis chapter of TOS for 33 years. She served TOS as an officer at both the chapter and state levels, and earned our Society's Distinguished Service Award in 1996. Carolyn participated in over 100 CBC's and put in countless hours during the Breeding Bird Atlas project and was instrumental in the restoration of the Bald Eagle population at Reelfoot Lake during the hacking program of the early 80's. Carolyn also ran a Breeding Bird Survey route in west Tennessee for more than 10 years. It was an honor and great pleasure to know her, and I am proud she called me friend. Carolyn will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Dick Preston
President, TOS



Carolyn Bullock

Mr. Kenneth Leggett, 68, of Eddyville, Kentucky, passed away Sunday, March 28, 2010, at Caldwell County Medical Center in Princeton.

He was a retired accountant for Burk's Beverage Company in Dyersburg, TN., a member of Eddyville United Methodist Church, the Kentucky Ornithology Society, the Memphis chapter of the Tennessee Ornithology Society since 1977 and the Louisville & Nashville Historical Society in Louisville. Mr. Leggett was a professional pilot and a photographer.

Mr. Leggett is survived by his wife of 34 years, Elizabeth Feltner Leggett, and one son, Jeff Leggett of Alpharetta, GA.

Obituary - *The Paducah Sun*

Ken began birding at a young age and was a very avid birder over the years. Ken birded with Ben and Lula Coffey, Burt Monroe and many others. He and Glen Criswell birded a lot over the past years in Dyer and Lake County and had contributed many of the records in those counties. He was a member of TOS/KOS for many years with his wife Betty. I birded a lot with Ken in Lake and Dyer County. I met Ken and Betty when they found the first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Lake County.

Ken was a very talented birder, photographer and pilot, and a good friend. He will be missed.

Nancy Moore



SEND CORRECTIONS & CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUESTS To:
treasurer@tnbirds.org

“THE TENNESSEE WARBLER”

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OCTOBER 31ST DEADLINE

The deadline date for the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is October 31st. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

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